



Delegation of representatives of the Americas to observe Nicaraguan elections

Managua, November 2, 2006—After observing the September elections in Brazil, parliamentarians from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** arrived today in Nicaragua to observe the presidential and legislative elections on November 5. Mr. Eric Mercier, a member of the Québec National Assembly and chair of COPA's Democracy and Peace Committee, will head up the electoral observation mission in Managua from November 2 to 6.

The delegation will also include COPA first vice president and senator of the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina Edda Acuña, former COPA president and Andean Parliament member for Venezuela Jhannett Madriz Sotillo, El Salvador Legislative Assembly member Irma Segunda Amaya, Paraguay Chamber of Deputies member Juan Bartolomé Ramírez, Andean Parliament member for Venezuela Luis Diaz Laplace, Andean Parliament member for Venezuela Yul Jabour, Andean Parliament member for Venezuela Victor Hugo Morales, and Mexican State Congress of Quintana Roo member Efraín Villanueva.

Invited by the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua as observers of the Nicaraguan election, the COPA parliamentarians will cover the maximum possible number of polling stations in Managua, Nicaragua's capital city, on election day. The delegation will also meet with representatives of the institutions and organizations conducting the election. Candidates, as well as the heads of political parties and civil society organizations will be among those consulted by the COPA delegation.

The parliamentarians will be assisted by COPA Democracy and Peace Committee secretary Mr. Jacques Paquet, as well as Ms. Francine Barry, assistant to the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec and electoral expert.

Founded in Québec City in 1997, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) brings together over 300 parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, as well as the regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas. By taking an increasingly active role in election monitoring throughout the Americas, COPA has established its strategic importance in the consolidation of democracy.

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Information

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